

Bennett 1999-0447CON

Remarks

Reconsideration of remaining claims 1, 3-9, 11 and 12 is respectfully requested.

In the Office action dated May 3, 2007, the Examiner rejected pending claims 1, 3-12 and 14 under 35 USC §§ 102(e) and 103(a). The Examiner further cited claim 13 as containing allowable subject matter, but depending from a rejected base claim (claim 1).

In response, applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 13, as well as the subject matter of intervening claim 10. Both claims 10 and 13 have been cancelled from this application.

In summary, the present application now contains claims 1, 3-9, 11 and 12. Independent claim 1, having now incorporated therein the subject matter of claims 10 and 13, is believed to be in condition for allowance over the cited references. Applicants thus respectfully request the Examiner to review the amended claims and find them to be allowable.

Additionally, applicants have previously replied to a "Notice of Missing Parts" and supplied a "complete specification as prescribed by 35 USC 112". Thus, applicants are requesting that the filing date of this application be corrected to read **February 5, 2004**.

If there are any remaining questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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